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Fifty-first session
Item 71 of the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 7 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to note CDA/9-96/APLM dated 23 January 1996 from the Centre for Disarmament Affairs regarding resolution 50/70 O, entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines", which was adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 1995.

Singapore shares the deep concern expressed by many members of the international community regarding the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel land-mines (APLs). The irresponsible and indiscriminate use of land-mines poses grave dangers to civilian populations and is a serious threat to the safety and lives of personnel participating in United Nations humanitarian, peace-keeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations. Singapore therefore endorses the call by the General Assembly to increase mine-clearing efforts by the international community.

Singapore has decided to institute, with immediate effect, a two-year moratorium on the export of APLs that have no self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms. In our view, APLs with no self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms are the fundamental cause of the humanitarian problems caused by land-mines as they continue to inflict harm on civilian populations long after emplacement.

Singapore shares the view expressed by several countries during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly that it is not practical to have a blanket ban on all types of APLs as many countries still see the need for APLs for legitimate self-defence purposes. Attempts to eliminate APLs altogether can

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be counter-productive as some countries will regard such moves as a threat to their security. A lack of general support could also set back efforts to achieve a consensus on how to eliminate the humanitarian problems caused by APLs. Singapore is committed to working with members of the international community to find a durable solution to this problem.

I further have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Bilahari KAUSIKAN

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Fifty-first session
Items 71, 72, 73 and 81 of
the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 13 May 1996 from the representatives of China, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Agreement between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the People's Republic of China on confidence building in the military field in the border area, signed by the heads of those States on 26 April 1996 in Shanghai (see annex).

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We should be grateful if you would have the text of the Agreement and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 71, 72, 73 and 81 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of
China to the United Nations

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. AITMATOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative a.i.
of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

(Signed) Y. FEDOTOV
Acting Permanent Representative a.i.
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Agreement between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the People's Republic of China on confidence building in the military field in the border area

The Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, constituting the Joint Party, and the People's Republic of China, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Considering that the maintenance and development of long-term relations of good-neighbourliness and friendship correspond to the fundamental interests of the five States and their peoples;

Convinced that the strengthening of security and the preservation of tranquillity and stability in the border area between the Russian Federation, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, on the one hand, and China, on the other (hereinafter referred to as the border area) are an important contribution to the maintenance of peace in the Asia and Pacific Ocean region;

Confirming the mutual non-use of force or threat of its use and renunciation of unilateral military superiority;

Guided by the Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the guiding principles for the mutual reduction of armed forces and confidence-building in the military field in the Soviet-Chinese border area, of 24 April 1990;

In accordance with the results attained by the Parties in the negotiations on the mutual reduction of armed forces and confidence-building in the military field in the border area;

Striving to build confidence and enhance the level of transparency in the military field,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The armed forces of the Parties which are stationed in the border area as an integral part of the Parties' armed forces shall not be used to attack the other Party or carry out any military activity threatening the other Party and disturbing tranquillity and stability in the border area.

Article 2

1. In order to develop relations of good-neighbourliness and friendship, maintain a situation of long-term stability in the border area, and strengthen mutual trust in the military field in the border area, the Parties shall undertake the following measures:

1.1 They shall exchange information on the agreed components of the armed forces and the border troops (border units);

1.2 They shall not conduct military exercises directed against the other Party;

1.3 They shall limit the scale, geographical scope and number of military exercises;

1.4 They shall give notification of any large-scale military activity and troop movements resulting from emergency situations;

1.5 They shall give notification of the temporary entry of troops and weapons into the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border between the Russian Federation, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, on the one hand, and China, on the other (hereinafter referred to as the border);

1.6 They shall invite observers to military exercises, on a reciprocal basis;

1.7 They shall give notification of the temporary entry of river-going combat vessels of navies or naval forces into the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the eastern part of the Russian-Chinese border;

1.8 They shall take measures to prevent hazardous military activity;

1.9 They shall inquire about unclear situations;

1.10 They shall strengthen friendly contacts between military personnel of the armed forces and the border troops (border units) in the border area and shall carry out other confidence-building measures agreed upon by the Parties.

2. The application of the measures listed above is defined in detail in the corresponding articles of this Agreement.

Article 3

1. The Parties shall exchange information regarding the size of the personnel and the number of basic types of weapons and military equipment of the ground troops, air forces, air-defence air forces and border troops (border units) stationed in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border.

The Parties shall exchange the above-mentioned information in accordance with the basic categories for the exchange of information, which constitute an inseparable part of this Agreement.

2. The information shall be provided as follows:

2.1 Sixty days after the entry into force of this Agreement - information as of the date of the entry into force of the Agreement;

2.2 By 15 December of each year - information as of 1 January of the following year.

3. The information which the Parties exchange in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and receive in the course of implementing this Agreement shall be confidential. Neither of the Parties shall divulge, publish or give this information to a third party without the consent thereto of the other Party. In the event of termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall continue to comply with the provisions of this paragraph of the present article.

Article 4

1. The Parties shall not conduct military exercises directed against the other Party.

2. In the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border, the Parties shall not conduct troop exercises with more than: 40,000 participants, on the eastern part of the Russian-Chinese border; and 4,000 participants or 50 battle tanks, separately or together, on the western part of the Russian-Chinese border and on the border of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan with China.

3. In the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the eastern part of the Russian-Chinese border, the Parties shall not conduct military exercises with over 25,000 participants more than once a year.

4. Within the limits of a 15-kilometre zone on both sides of the border, the Parties may not conduct military exercises with participation in live firing by more than one regiment.

5. Within the limits of a 10-kilometre zone on both sides of the border, the Parties shall not deploy new military units other than border troops (border units).

Article 5

1. The Parties shall give notification of any military activities conducted in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border in the following circumstances:

1.1 When military exercises involving more than 25,000 participants are conducted;

1.2 When troops stationed outside the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border are temporarily introduced into the zone, if they number 9,000 or more or are accompanied by 250 or more battle tanks;

1.3 When reserve personnel numbering 9,000 or more are called up to the 100-kilometre zone on both sides of the border.

2. The Parties shall, on a voluntary basis, notify one another of military exercises involving personnel numbering 9,000 or more or 250 or more battle tanks carried out at any time in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border or outside the limits of that zone.

3. Notification of the above-mentioned military activities shall be given in writing through the diplomatic channel not less than 10 days before the activity is to commence.

The notification shall include information on the total number of personnel taking part; the number of military units at the strength of a regiment or larger taking part; the number of battle tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery systems of a calibre of 122 mm or greater, military aeroplanes and helicopters, and tactical missile launchers; and the purposes, timetable and geographical scope of the military activities and the level of command.

4. If as a result of any military activity one of the Parties may cause harm to the other Party or if in an emergency movements of troops numbering 9,000 or more or the cooperation of other Parties should be required, timely notification thereof shall be given to the other Party.

Article 6

1. A Party conducting military exercises in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on the border shall invite observers from the other Party, if the number of troops taking part is 35,000 or more.

2. Parties conducting military exercises in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border shall invite observers from the other Party on a reciprocal basis if the troops taking part in the exercises number 25,000 or more.

3. Parties conducting military exercises in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border and outside the limits of the zone shall on a voluntary and reciprocal basis invite observers from the other side, if the troops taking part number 13,000 or more or if 300 or more battle tanks are involved.

4. The Party extending the invitation shall send it to the other Party in writing through the diplomatic channel not less than 30 days before the start of the exercises and shall provide information on:

4.1 The starting date and duration of the exercises and the planned duration of the programme of observation;

4.2 The date, time and place of arrival and departure of the observers;

4.3 The means of observation to be made available to the observers;

4.4 Arrangements for transport, and accommodation and board.

The invited Party shall respond to the invitation not less than 10 days before the date indicated in it as the date for the arrival of the observers. If a reply is not received from the invited Party within the prescribed period, it shall be taken that observers are not being sent.

5. The invited Party may send no more than six observers to the military exercises to be observed.

6. The invited Party shall defray the costs of transporting its observers to and from the designated point of arrival and departure. The receiving Party shall defray the costs related to the stay of the observers in its territory.

7. The Party extending the invitation shall provide the observers with an observation programme, relevant materials and other assistance.

8. The observers shall be responsible for observing the relevant rules of the receiving Party with regard to the place, itinerary and limits of the observation.

Article 7

1. River-going combat vessels of the Parties' navies or naval forces (ships and motor launches designed for combat operations and armed with combat-weapons systems) may temporarily enter the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border for the following purposes:

1.1 To eliminate the consequences of natural disasters;

1.2 To travel across the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border without inflicting any damage.

2. Russian river-going naval combat vessels may temporarily enter the 100-kilometre geographical zone on the eastern section of the Russian-Chinese border for the following purposes:

2.1 Repair, upgrading, weapons removal, ship-breaking and refitting for civilian use at the ship-repair yards at Khabarovsk and Blagoveshchensk or other ship-repair yards;

2.2 Participation in national holiday celebrations at Khabarovsk and Blagoveshchensk.

3. Temporary entry of river-going naval or naval-forces combat vessels into the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border for

purposes not indicated above may only be carried out following prior agreement between the Parties.

4. The total number of each Party's river-going naval or naval-forces combat vessels simultaneously located in the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border shall not exceed four vessels.

5. Six months after the entry into force of this Agreement, the Parties shall, pursuant to articles 1 and 2 of this article, inform each other, in writing within a period of seven days through the diplomatic channel or through the intermediary of border representatives, of the temporary entry by river-going naval or naval-forces combat vessels into the 100-kilometre geographical zone on both sides of the border. In emergencies, the other Party must receive prior notification before river-going naval or naval-forces combat vessels may enter the said zone temporarily.

6. Such notification shall contain the following information:

6.1 Purpose of the temporary entry;

6.2 Type, vessel numbers and number of incoming river-going naval or naval forces combat vessels;

6.3 Date on which presence in the zone will start and finish;

6.4 Their temporary location (geographical name and geographical coordinates).

Article 8

1. The Parties shall take the following measures to prevent hazardous military activity and the consequences thereof in the border area:

1.1 Personnel of the Parties' armed forces shall exercise caution when performing military activities in the border region;

1.2 During troop movements, exercises, combat firing, ship movements and aircraft flights, the Parties shall endeavour to prevent such operations from developing into hazardous military activity;

1.3 The use of lasers by either Party must not damage the other Party's personnel or equipment through radiation;

1.4 The use by either Party of radio-frequency jamming of its own communications control network must not damage the other Party's personnel or equipment;

1.5 When performing combat-firing exercises, measures shall be taken to prevent bullets, shells and missiles from straying into the other Party's territory and causing harm to its personnel or equipment.

2. When incidents caused by hazardous military activity occur, the Parties shall take measures to discontinue such activity, clarify the situation and make reparation for any damage. Reparation for damage resulting from hazardous military activity by either State shall be made by that State in accordance with the commonly accepted principles and standards of international law. The Parties shall resolve questions that arise through consultations.

3. The Parties shall make use of every possible means of communication in respect of dangerous incidents of a military nature.

Article 9

1. If an unclear situation arises in the border area or in connection with questions or doubts on the part of one Party concerning observance of the Agreement by the other Party, each Party shall have the right to request information from the other Party.

2. In order to resolve questions and doubts that arise:

2.1 The requested Party must, within seven days (in emergency situations, within two days), reply to the request made by the other Party;

2.2 If, after receiving a reply from the other Party, the requesting Party still has questions and doubts, it may again request a further explanation by the other Party or propose the holding of a meeting to discuss the matter. The venue of the meeting shall be determined through agreement by the Parties.

3. In order to eliminate and resolve questions and doubts arising on the part of the other Party with regard to an unclear situation, the requested Party may, at its own discretion, invite the other Party to visit the areas, in respect of which the questions and doubts have arisen.

The conditions for conducting such visits, including the number of representatives to be invited, shall be determined by the inviting Party. The inviting Party shall bear the costs of conducting such visits in its territory.

4. The requests for information and the replies to them provided for above shall be transmitted through the diplomatic channel.

Article 10

1. The Parties shall conduct and develop the following forms of cooperation between armed forces in contiguous military districts:

1.1 Reciprocal official visits by military leaders;

1.2 Reciprocal familiarization trips by military delegations and specialist groups of various levels;

1.3 Reciprocal invitations, on a voluntary basis, of observers to troop and headquarter exercises;

1.4 Exchange of experience in the field of military construction and combat training as well as exchange of materials and information on the life and activities of troops;

1.5 Cooperation by administrative echelons, in construction, the provision of food, clothing and equipment to troops and other fields;

1.6 Reciprocal invitations, on a voluntary basis, to participate in the celebration of national holidays, cultural activities and sporting competitions;

1.7 Other forms of cooperation agreed by the Parties.

2. Specific plans for cooperation shall be agreed by the external liaison bodies of the Parties' armed forces.

Article 11

1. The Parties' border troops (border units) shall develop cooperation in the following areas:

1.1 Establishing and developing contacts among all levels of border units, discussing questions concerning border cooperation and exchanging information that promotes border cooperation;

1.2 Holding consultations and implementing agreed measures to suppress illegal activities and maintain tranquillity and stability on the State border;

1.3 Preventing possible incidents and conflict situations on the State border;

1.4 Timely notification and provision of mutual assistance in cases of natural disasters, epidemics, epizootic diseases and so forth which may cause damage to the other Party;

1.5 Exchanging experience in protecting the State border and training border troops (border units);

1.6 Exchanging delegations and developing cultural and sport exchanges and other types of friendly contacts.

2. Specific measures to promote cooperation among border troops (border units) shall be agreed by the border agencies of the Parties.

Article 12

The border troops (border units) of the Parties shall not use inhuman or rough treatment in dealing with border violators. The use of weapons by the border personnel of the Parties shall be determined by the domestic legislation of the Parties and the corresponding agreements of the Russian Federation, Kazakstan, Krygyzstan and Tajikistan with China.

Article 13

On the basis of agreement by the Parties, meetings of experts shall be conducted in order to discuss the implementation of this Agreement. The capitals of the States Parties to this Agreement shall alternately be the venue of such meetings.

Article 14

This Agreement shall not affect obligations undertaken previously by the Parties in respect of other States and shall not be directed against third countries or their interests.

Article 15

1. This Agreement shall be concluded for an indefinite period and may be amended or supplemented by agreement by the Parties.

2. Each of the Parties shall have the right to terminate this Agreement. The Party which intends to terminate it shall notify the other Party of its decision to do so not less than six months in advance in writing. This Agreement shall cease to have effect six months after such notification.

3. Each State of the Joint Party shall have the right to withdraw from this Agreement. A State of the Joint Party which intends to withdraw from this Agreement shall notify the other Party of its decision to do so not less than six months in advance in writing.

4. This Agreement shall remain in force as long as at least one State of the Joint Party which has not withdrawn from the Agreement and the Chinese Party remain parties to it.

Article 16

The Parties shall mutually notify one another about the fulfilment by the parties, including all the States of the Joint Party, of the internal State procedures required for the entry into force of this Agreement.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last notification in writing.

DONE at Shanghai (People's Republic of China) on 26 April 1996 in five copies, each in the Russian and Chinese languages, all texts in the Russian and Chinese languages being equally authentic.

For the Russian Federation:
B. YELTSIN

For the People's Republic of China:
JIANG Zemin

For the Republic of Kazakstan:
N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:
A. AKAEV

For the Republic of Tajikistan:
E. RAKHMONOV

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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 16 May 1996 from the representatives of Kazakstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Joint Russian-Kazak (Almaty) Declaration (see annex I) and the Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Use of the Caspian Sea (see annex II), which were adopted in Almaty on 27 April 1996.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 41 and 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Yu. FEDOTOV
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

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ANNEX I

Joint Russian-Kazak (Almaty) Declaration, adopted on 27 April 1996

The Presidents of the friendly States, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakstan,

Resolved to form a strategic partnership and develop relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutual cooperation on the basis of the universally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Reaffirming their commitment to the values of freedom, democracy, supremacy of law and respect for human rights,

Declare:

The signing in Moscow on 29 March 1996 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the Deepening of Integration in the Economic and Humanitarian Fields attests to the fact that relations between the Russian Federation and Kazakstan and other States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have reached a new level.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan are confident that that instrument will give a new impetus to the further integration of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We are referring to the desire of the peoples and States of the Commonwealth to make more effective use of their material and intellectual potential with a view to stimulating their economies, raising their standard of living and ensuring sustainable democratic development.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan reaffirm their commitment to the principles set forth in the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 25 May 1992 and the joint Declaration on the Broadening and Deepening of Kazak-Russian Cooperation of 20 January 1995 and declare their intention to continue to follow strictly their provisions.

On the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992 and guided by the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakstan on Military Cooperation of 28 March 1994, the Russian Federation and Kazakstan shall continue to adhere to the principles of concerted efforts to strengthen regional security and development of cooperation in the field of defence.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan shall continue their interaction in the field of foreign policy, bearing in mind the coordination of their positions on international and regional issues of common interest, as well as the coordination of their activities in international organizations.

The peoples of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan, exercising their right to self-determination, have established free and sovereign States. The will of

the peoples of the two countries and their understanding of their historical destiny are reflected in their participation in the process of representative democracy. The democratic transformations and economic reforms being carried out by the Russian Federation and Kazakstan are of great importance for the future of the peoples of the two countries. The deepening of integration on the basis of respect for sovereignty, independence, observance of the principles of territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs is a major factor in the social and economic development of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan shall strictly observe the rights and freedoms of the individual, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of nationality, and shall promote the development of contacts between the citizens of the two countries, as well as scientific and cultural exchanges. The two States shall continue to oppose resolutely any manifestations of national extremism, chauvinism or separatism. Particular attention shall be given to the broadening of cooperation in the field of the social protection, equalization of pensions, benefits and privileges for war and labour veterans, and support for disabled persons and poor families.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakstan are confident that the development between them of relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation is in keeping with the basic interests of the multi-ethnic peoples of the two States and is a reliable incentive for and a guarantee of the success of the integration processes within the Commonwealth of Independent States and an important contribution to the safeguarding of security and stability in Central Asia.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV
President of the
Republic of Kazakstan

ANNEX II

Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Use of the Caspian Sea, adopted in Almaty on 27 April 1996

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, and the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, Mr. Nursultan A. Nazarbaev, having discussed, in Almaty on 27 April 1996, questions relating to the legal status of the Caspian Sea and the development of cooperation between the countries bordering the Caspian Sea, have reached the following understanding:

1. The Parties consider that their immediate task is to conclude a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea. The new legal status of the Caspian must be defined by the States that border the Caspian Sea on the basis of consensus. No one has the right to decide the question of the legal status of the Caspian Sea on a unilateral basis. As a comprehensive decision, the legal status must include the regulation of questions of navigation, the use of biological and mineral resources, and ecology, including the rise in the sea level and the definition of the jurisdictional limits of the littoral States.

The drafting of the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea will be conducive to the conclusion of agreements on separate aspects of activities on the Caspian Sea.

2. The Parties agree that the activities of the littoral States on the Caspian Sea must be conducted in keeping with the following principles:

- in their relations, the States bordering the Caspian Sea shall respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations relating to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the sovereign equality of States and the non-use of force or threat of the use of force;

- the use of the Caspian for exclusively peaceful purposes;

- the maintenance of the Caspian Sea as a zone of peace, good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation, and the peaceful settlement of all questions concerning the Caspian Sea;

- the protection of the environment and the prevention of the pollution of the Caspian Sea;

- the responsibility of the States bordering the Caspian Sea for any damage to the environment or each other as a result of their use of the Caspian Sea and exploitation of its resources;

- the freedom and safety of commercial shipping by States bordering the Caspian Sea;

- and the observance of any other principles that they may agree on among themselves.

3. The Parties agree that only vessels belonging to the States bordering the Caspian Sea may sail on the Caspian Sea.

The procedure and conditions for navigation on the Caspian shall be defined in separate agreements.

4. The Parties are convinced that the joint participation in the exploitation of the natural resources of the Caspian Sea is in keeping with their mutual interests. They recognize each other's right to carry out activities with a view to exploiting the mineral and biological resources of the Caspian Sea and shall exchange concrete proposals on the development of mutually advantageous cooperation in accordance with an agreed programme, including geophysical and geological survey activities and the exploitation of hydrocarbon deposits, bearing in mind the experience and capabilities of the Parties.

5. The Parties are in favour of intensifying, and raising the level of, negotiations between the States bordering the Caspian Sea with respect to the legal status of the Caspian Sea and to this end endorse the proposal to hold a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five littoral States to consider the legal status of the Caspian Sea and other related questions.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV
President of the
Republic of Kazakstan

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ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

Letter dated 14 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the European Union on anti-personnel land-mines (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 34, 71 and 75 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Lorenzo FERRARIN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the European Union on anti-personnel land-mines

At the closure of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the European Union recalls that it has, over the last years, redoubled its efforts to combat the severe consequences caused to civilians by the indiscriminate use of land-mines, in particular anti-personnel mines.

The European Union, which had adopted in May 1995 a joint action in order to reconfirm its commitment to the objective of an overall strengthening of Protocol II to the Convention, considers that the achievements of the Review Conference (such as the extension of the scope of Protocol II, the strengthening of restrictions on the use of mines, the new and immediate prohibitions regarding transfers, the provisions on technological cooperation and assistance, the regular review mechanism, etc.), taken together, are significant steps forward, both in terms of the land-mines Protocol itself and of the development of international humanitarian law.

The European Union, however, underlines that the results of the Review Conference fall short of its expectations and of some of the goals set out in its joint action. In particular, the European Union should have liked an effective and binding verification mechanism and no periods of deferral of compliance, or at least much shorter ones.

The European Union is convinced that the conclusion of this Review Conference is only the beginning of a challenging process which requires constant and widespread efforts and persistence in order to achieve fully its basic humanitarian objectives. The European Union will continue to seek solutions to the problems caused by anti-personnel land-mines and will strive towards the goal of their eventual elimination as stated in General Assembly resolution 50/70 (O). In the meantime, the States members of the European Union will seek early ratification of the amended Protocol II, as well as of the new Protocol IV on blinding laser weapons, and will take urgent steps to ensure their compliance with all the provisions of these two protocols pending their entry into force.

The European Union will also continue to lend active efforts with a view to achieving universal adherence to the Convention, since its objectives can only be effectively attained through implementation of its provisions by the widest number of States and parties to conflicts.

Furthermore, the European Union recalls its determination to pursue its contribution to the international mine clearance efforts. The European Union has already contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund, financing in

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 16 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Oslo Consensus on 20/20 (see annex). This document is the result of a meeting held at Oslo from 23 to 25 April 1996 among interested Governments and multilateral organizations to review the implementation of the 20/20 initiative, as described in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen and reconfirmed by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45.

(Signed) Jakken BIØRN LIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

The Oslo Consensus on 20/20

1. As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in March 1995, the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands invited a number of interested countries and multilateral organizations that met at Oslo from 23 to 25 April 1996 to review the implementation of the 20/20 initiative, as described in the Programme of Action of the Summit and reconfirmed by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing.

2. The 20/20 initiative is also part of the commitment made at Copenhagen to increase significantly and/or utilize more efficiently the resources allocated to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit. Measures to that effect include implementation of debt-relief agreements and striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for overall official development assistance as soon as possible.

3. The meeting was convened to pursue a common ambition to achieve universal access to basic social services over an ambitious but realistic time period, by reorienting existing and mobilizing additional resources as well as increasing cost-effectiveness, efficiency and quality in service delivery.

4. The meeting reaffirmed that investing in a country's human resources, in particular women and children, means investing in its future and is fundamental to realizing its full potential for social and economic development. Promoting access for all to basic social services was considered essential for sustainable development and should be an integral part of any strategy to overcome poverty.

5. The meeting reviewed strategies and modalities for how universal access to basic social services can be pursued through concerted national and international action based on the 20/20 initiative.

6. The meeting reached the following conclusions.

Giving priority to basic social services

7. The meeting recognized that the objective of eradicating absolute poverty requires a broad range of policies and actions at all levels. An appropriate economic framework based on sound macroeconomic policies, a well-developed infrastructure, strengthened institutions and capacity, as well as meeting basic human needs such as shelter, and providing social welfare, were recognized as key factors for addressing the poverty problem.

8. Within the framework of this overall objective, the meeting considered that development of basic social services was of particular importance in reducing the worst aspects of poverty and is a key element in breaking the poverty cycle.

9. To this end, the meeting reaffirmed that developing countries should take the lead and set the priorities. Within this context, developing country

Governments were encouraged to prepare basic social programmes, as part of the poverty reduction strategy suggested by the Social Summit, with the aim of achieving universal access to basic social services over an ambitious but realistic time period. It was recognized by the meeting that such programmes and strategies should be country specific in order to do justice to each country's particular problems and circumstances.

10. The meeting invited donor countries and multilateral agencies to express their readiness to provide technical and financial support for the preparation and implementation of such programmes as well as action plans within individual sectors.

The 20/20 objective: pursuing a mutual commitment

11. In this context, the 20/20 concept was considered useful for giving higher priority to basic social services. The main focus of the 20/20 initiative should be the effective and efficient delivery of basic social services to the poor and vulnerable segments of the populations.

12. Within the context of this 20/20 initiative, the meeting understood basic social services as comprising basic education and primary health care, including reproductive health and population programmes, nutrition programmes and safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the institutional capacity for delivering those services. Access to these services should be universal, while targeting the poorest and most vulnerable.

13. The thrust of the 20/20 initiative reflects a mutual commitment by developing countries and their development partners to give higher priority to basic social services and to translate this commitment into financial terms. This should be done on a predictable basis in order to achieve sustainable and universal access. Achieving adequate provision of basic social services to the poor will, however, not only require financial resources, emphasis must also be put on both the quality and efficiency with which services are provided.

14. The meeting recognized the importance of implementing the 20/20 initiative on a reciprocal basis. Interested developed and developing country partners should reflect their mutual commitment by allocating, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance, including contributions through multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations and 20 per cent of the national budgets (net of aid), respectively, to basic social services, as soon as possible and preferably by the year 2000.

Follow-up action at the country level

15. The meeting invited interested developing countries and donor Governments and multilateral organizations to review policy frameworks, plans of action and basic social services programmes, with identified national and external financing requirements, in all appropriate forums, in particular consultative group and round-table meetings. The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were considered to have special responsibilities

for assisting interested countries in the preparation of the required analysis of social sector development.

16. Governments were urged to cooperate closely with civil society. The meeting emphasized the strong role to be played by local government and local communities in the whole process in fulfilling the goals of social development. The meeting encouraged the involvement of civil society, such as non-governmental organizations, to play an active role in design, implementation and monitoring of basic social programmes.

17. The meeting agreed that monitoring progress in social indicators and financial flows can play an important role in securing the adequate expansion of basic social services and in alerting policy makers when extra efforts and reforms may be needed to achieve set objectives.

18. Developing countries, supported by their development partners, should strive to establish budget structures and social and economic data collection systems which would enable them to review budget allocations as well as to monitor their performance in terms of social indicators.

19. The meeting agreed that public expenditure reviews should be further developed and refined in order to improve their usefulness for monitoring budget allocations for basic social services.

20. Developing countries represented at the Oslo meeting expressed their readiness to invite their multilateral and bilateral development partners to enter into a dialogue on how to pursue the objectives of the 20/20 initiative in their countries. A number of countries informed that they had concrete plans to launch pilot programmes under the 20/20 initiative.

21. Developed countries represented at the Oslo meeting expressed their readiness to enter into such dialogues with the intent to follow up this 20/20 initiative.

22. The multilateral organizations represented at the Oslo meeting expressed their readiness to support developing countries in the formulation and implementation of social sector programmes in favour of the poor, and in the monitoring and analysis of budget expenditure on basic social services, their cost-effectiveness and their impact on social indicators.

Follow-up action at the international level

23. Member countries should invite the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to adopt reporting systems that will enable it to collect official development assistance information for the purpose of monitoring the official development assistance share allocated to basic social services. Developed countries should increase efforts to provide data on assistance for basic social services using existing reporting systems. DAC member countries were also urged to pay special attention to support for basic social services in their peer review consultations.

24. Multilateral development agencies were encouraged to adopt reporting systems compatible to those of DAC and to make data on their 20/20 performance available to DAC.

25. Governments were encouraged to incorporate information on progress with regard to investments in basic social services into the formal, intergovernmental follow-up and reporting cycle related to the World Summit for Social Development, taking into account the need for an integrated follow-up to and reporting on recent major United Nations conferences.

26. Governments and organizations were called upon to put the follow-up to this Oslo Consensus on the agenda of the appropriate international forums in order to further its implementation and effectiveness in promoting universal access to basic social services, inter alia, through the mobilization of resources.

27. The meeting agreed that the potential of existing mechanisms for international cooperation between donors and developing countries as follow-up forums for the 20/20 initiative should be explored.

28. The participants in the Oslo meeting agreed that a follow-up meeting should be held within two years to exchange information and experience and to review and assess progress in implementing the 20/20 initiative. The host country, Norway, took on a clear responsibility of ensuring that such a follow-up meeting would take place in one or two years' time. It was agreed that at the next meeting discussions should focus and build on the concrete experiences of individual developing countries and their development partners in implementing the 20/20 initiative. It was also agreed that the next meeting would address the issue of clarifying and monitoring the inputs and outputs of the 20/20 initiative. The meeting noted with appreciation that the Netherlands offered the assistance of some experts to further develop and elaborate the monitoring instruments.